

Clog causes sewage to spill into Otsego Lake

- By Erin Jerome Staff Writer
- Dec 19, 2018
- https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/clog-causes-sewage-to-spill-into-otsego-lake/article_61e3e665-2ae7-5726-a84c-e8eafcf7d269.html

Grease clogging a sewage main Tuesday in Cooperstown caused spillage into Otsego Lake.

The village alerted the Department of Environmental Conservation after the backup from the main under Council Rock park caused approximately 2,000 gallons of raw sewage and grease chunks to leak out of a manhole and enter Otsego Lake around 1 p.m., according to the DEC and village Department of Public Works Superintendent Mitch Hotaling.

The discharge ran for about 2.5 hours, according to a state alert.

Hotaling said the sewer line was promptly jetted and the clog removed before some of the spillage reached the lake from the boat launch by Lake Front Park on Fish Road. He said he believes the problem was reached quickly, and that part of the main may need repairs.

The DEC had not specified any next steps necessary for the lake by Wednesday afternoon, Hotaling said. DEC Region 4 spokesperson Rick Georgeson said personnel have followed up with the village and provided recommendations regarding proper management of grease and grease traps, but declined to say what next steps, if any, were necessary. Surface water drawn from the lake is the village's water source.

"We're always protective of the lake," Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh said. She said the spill hasn't affected drinking water.

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